

## **FIDE ONLINE CHESS COMMISSION (OCC) – New Commission**

### **Establishment Report**

**Members Proposed:** Ali Nihat YAZICI (acting chairman), Sevan Muradian (Co-Chairman), Michalis Kaloumenos (Executive Secretary), Sotiris Logothesis (councillor), Ugur Dundar (councillor), Vladimir Kukaev (councillor), Claudio Selleri (Premium Chess):

#### **Objectives:**

OCC is responsible for the compilation of the following sets of regulations:

- a) The regulations for registering and licensing of players
- b) The rating regulations of the FOA for rapid, blitz and bullet chess.
- c) The titles regulations, for titles achieved in FOA.
- d) Other technologies related with chess online

The above regulations should be approved by the Presidential Board / Executive Board and confirmed by the FIDE General Assembly.

OCC is also responsible for:

- a) The maintenance of the FIDE Players' registry and database and the presentation of players' details on FIDE Web site.
- b) confirming titles achieved in FOA
- c) Supervision of the smooth operation of all activities in FOA.
- d) Monitoring of the Anti-Cheating system of FOA, contacting players and decide further disciplinary measures.
- e) Administering a customer service team to answer all members' / Federations' questions and solve possible problems.
- f) Announcing and organising tournaments and special online events in co-operation with other FIDE Commissions wherever this is required.
- g) In conjunction with CNC Web, OCC is responsible for advertising, promoting and marketing of the FOA. Such activities may include products and services addressed to the FOA members and/or National Federations.

Term Achievements:

#### **FIDE Online Arena**

Introduction and overview

The power and usefulness of the Internet is apparent in so much of what we do and there is little need to explain the enormous benefits that Internet can provide FIDE, the national federations and the chess world as a whole now and in the future,. Chess is one of the few sports that is as enjoyable played on the Internet as it is face to face. For some time now FIDE has been developing and introducing information technology and Internet projects to make sure that we make the most of what these exciting technologies have to offer.

One of the most important of these initiatives has been the recent launch of FIDE online arena and I would like to give you a quick update on its progress. The key element of the arena, and

what makes it so special, is its advanced anti-cheating technology; this tested technology combined with special FIDE anti-cheating procedures has made it possible to award official FIDE online bullet, blitz and rapid ratings, which are now displayed on the FIDE ratings page.

### **Benefits**

The principal benefit of FIDE online arena is that it makes it possible for chess players to come together and compete without the expense, travel and other difficulties that prevent large numbers of people from participating in official over-the-board chess events – in particular in developing countries where infrastructure problems and financial restrictions are more frequent. The arena also represents a superb platform for teaching and training. There is dedicated software for coaching that allows a trainer to give fully interactive group or individual lesson. This will allow students – in particular school students – to meet up with their teachers much more simply and cheaply, allowing students in even the remotest areas to access teachers with just a click of their mouse. In short, FIDE online arena will allow both kids and adults to access top level FIDE approved coaching anywhere they are at any time. The positive impact this will have cannot be overestimated.

The arena has integrated web pages and thus is also a great tool for publicizing FIDE and initiatives. Another great benefit is that FIDE online arena will make it much easier to gain corporate sponsors as we will be able to organise more attractive events for them and give them a higher profile and greater exposure.

The social media is another resource of fundamental importance for the future of chess. Social media differ from traditional or industrial media in many ways, including quality, reach, frequency, usability, immediacy, and permanence. Another huge benefit of FIDE online arena is its ability to generate activity and interest on the social media. FIDE online arena has been a social network success story in a very short period of time, with nearly 6,000 likes generated on Facebook in the last few months alone. The social media is an essential part of young people's lives and it represents a golden opportunity for us to reach out to and engage the next generation.

### **Features, events and performance.**

The arena - provided by Premium Chess - is a technologically advanced platform of the highest standard with all the features you would expect, including teaching and training facilities, detailed statistical analysis, games archive, chat service, multi-lingual interface, etc. The playing area and board and pieces are particularly nice and very easy and pleasant to play on. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from members regarding the general quality of the arena.

Events broadcasting is becoming more and more important, sophisticated and popular, and the arena supplies an ideal venue for this.

We are particularly pleased with the high quality of the public relations, graphics and advertising developed for the arena – you can see some examples of this behind me on the screen (please see attachment.)

The arena is a very large, long-term project and new features and initiatives will be introduced in the coming months. In particular, we have given priority to tablet and smart phone apps; these apps have already been developed and will be introduced in the near future.

The arena showcases a wide variety of events; these include scheduled tournaments, sit and go tournaments, thematic tournaments in which the starting position is a chosen opening, and of course individual challenge games and matches. There are also regular master challenges and simultaneous displays involving some of the world's most famous players such as Hou Yifan, Alexei Shirov and Arkadij Naiditsch to name just a few – these events are enormously popular and usually fully subscribed within seconds of registration opening.

Although the fully operational version of the arena began only 2 May 2014, the performance figures are very good, with over **18,000 registered users**, **1, 841,000 challenge games** played, **21,143 Sit and Go tournaments** and **3,114 daily tournaments**. We are still in the early days of this project and we anticipate large membership numbers in the years ahead. As FIDE we have got our first payment from sales of membership in July 2014 and that was 2205€ This was a good start and we believe that not only the contribution of FOA for making chess more popular will increase, but also the revenues through FOA for FIDE will be important part of our budget in the future.

### **The future (federations)**

I would like to finish by emphasising that the online arena provided by Premium Chess is a valuable resource that is available to all the national federations. In recent days there has been contact with many of your regarding the establishment of the same platforms for your federations. This contact will continue over the following weeks and months. The chess world by nature tends to be conservative and cautious, which in many respects is a good thing as this provides continuity and solidity. However, if we are to grow we must make the most of the opportunities new technology and ideas provides us with. FIDE online arena is such an opportunity and we expect great things in the years to come.

Acting Chairman

Ali Nihat YAZICI  
VP responsible with FOA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ali Nihat Yazici', with a stylized flourish at the end.